

OVEN RACK TOOL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a kitchen tool, more particularly a utensil for partially extracting and inserting an oven rack.

5 Most often, when one is baking or roasting food in an oven the rack on which the food is being cooked becomes extremely hot. During the cooking process it is usually necessary to partially extract the rack to check the status of the food and then to re-insert it until cooking is completed, at which time the oven rack must be extracted to remove the food. Normally, to decrease the likelihood of being burned
10 when touching the rack one uses mitts, gloves or a towel over one's hand. Unfortunately, such items are frequently out of reach, misplaced or can't be found when needed and often are too bulky to use. Also, even when such items are available, the user must move very close to the heat of the oven, thereby exposing the face and arms to the heat or the splattering and/or spillage of hot juices or
15 greases from the food being cooked. Accordingly, a need exists for a tool for extracting and inserting racks from an oven without exposing oneself to being burned.

The prior art includes the following United States patents:

	<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
20	D 459,173	Kelleghan	08/11/2000	06/25/2002
	Des. 433,899	Saffron <i>et al.</i>	03/13/2000	11/21/2000
	Des. 279,645	Makris	11/21/1983	07/16/1985
	Des. 237,581	Pasquale	06/27/1974	11/11/1975
	Des. 429,124	Sutton	11/05/1999	08/08/2000
25	Des. 256,655	Lacey	01/31/1979	09/02/1980
	Des. 267,620	Efron	03/23/1981	01/18/1983
	Des. 261,595	Yellin	07/02/1979	11/03/1981
	2,571,943	Ray <i>et al.</i>	05/27/1949	10/16/1951
	Des. 256,875	Slagle, IV	04/19/1979	09/16/1980

Although some of the tools disclosed in these prior patents are utilized for the same purpose, none has the same structure as the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a tool for partially
5 inserting or extracting an oven rack.

Another object of the present invention is to provide such a tool which decreases the likelihood of injury due to a hot rack.

A further object of the present invention is to provide such a tool which eliminates the need to use bulky gloves or mitts when inserting or extracting a rack
10 from an oven.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide such a tool which can be located in a position proximate to the oven so that it is readily available for use.

The present invention accomplishes the above and other objects by providing
15 a tool for extracting and inserting a rack of an oven made of a substantially planar rigid piece of material having proximal and distal ends. The proximal end has a handle for grasping by a user's hand and the distal end has at least one notch capable of being placed over a front bar of an oven rack so the oven rack can be pulled to partially extract it from the oven or pushed to insert it into the oven. The tool may
20 take any form, whether it be an animal, such as a fish, in which case the notch for inserting or pushing the rack into the oven may comprise the mouth and the notch for extracting the rack be contained on the underside of the head, a vegetable or whatever. The notch on the underside of the head could serve both purposes of inserting and extracting the rack. The distal or handle end for pushing and grasping

by the user could be a tail of the animal or fish. An eye hook could be attached to the tool, preferably on the distal end opposite the handle, so that the tool could be hung on a nail or hook proximate the oven to make it readily available for use.

5 The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

10 This invention is described by appended claims in relation to a description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the following drawings which are explained briefly as follows:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation view of one embodiment of the oven rack tool of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a top view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

15 **FIG. 3** is bottom view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the oven rack tool of **FIG. 1** in use extracting an oven rack from an oven;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the oven rack tool of **FIG. 1** inserting an oven rack into an oven; and

20 **FIG. 6** is a side view of another embodiment of the oven rack tool having a notch used for both extracting and inserting an oven rack.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Listed numerically below with reference to the drawings are terms used to describe features of this invention. These terms and numbers assigned to them designate the same features throughout this description.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 | 1. Oven rack tool | 10. Oven |
| | 2. Proximal end | 11. Oven door |
| | 3. Distal end | 12. Oven rack |
| | 4. Handle | 13. Person's hand |
| | 5. Extraction notch | 14. Front bar of oven rack |
| 10 | 6. Insertion notch | 15. Multi-use notch |
| | 7. Eye hook | 16. Insertion portion |
| | 8. Top side | 17. Extraction portion |
| | 9. Bottom side | 18. One-notch embodiment |

Referring to **FIGS. 1 - 3**, a two-notch fish-shaped oven rack tool **1** is shown having a proximal end **2** and a distal end **3**. The distal end **3** has a convex notch **6** for inserting or pushing an oven rack into an oven. The distal end **3** also has a forwardly directed hook notch **5** for extracting or pulling an oven rack from an oven. The proximal end **2**, which is in the shape of a tail, forms a handle **4** for grasping by the user. An eye hook **7** may be inserted into the distal end **3** of the tool so that the tool **1** can be hung over a nail or hook proximate the oven so as to be readily available for use, unlike gloves or mitts which are often stored elsewhere and are not readily available when needed.

FIGS. 4 and 5 show the fish-shaped embodiment of the tool **1** in actual use. In **FIG. 4** the tool **1** is shown with the extraction notch **5** placed over the front bar **14** of the oven rack **12**, with the user's hand grasping the handle section **4** on the proximal end of the tool **2**, the rack **12** can be partially extracted or pulled from the oven **10** when the oven door **11** is opened. To re-insert or push the oven rack **12**

back into the oven **10** all the user needs to do is to place the front bar **14** of the oven rack in the notch **6** on the distal end **3** of the tool and push inward until the rack **12** is completely in the oven **10** so that the door **11** can be closed.

Although **FIGS. 1 - 4** have shown an embodiment of the invention employing
5 two separate notches **5** and **6**, for extracting and inserting, respectively, an oven rack, **FIG. 6** shows another embodiment of the oven rack tool **18** wherein only one notch **15** is employed. This multi-use notch **15** is substantially mushroom-shaped, as it has a forward convex extraction portion **17** for hooking over the front bar **14** of an oven rack and pulling it outward. The notch **15** also has an aft extracting
10 portion section **16** for pushing the oven rack into the oven.

The oven rack tool of the present invention may take any form, a fish, an animal, a vegetable or whatever, so long as the tool would have at least one notch on a distal end for extracting and inserting an oven rack and a grasping handle on a proximal end.

15 A new and useful oven rack tool having been described, all such foreseeable modifications, adaptations, substitutions of equivalents, mathematical possibilities or combinations of parts, pluralities of parts, applications and forms thereof as described by the following claims and not precluded by prior art are included in this invention.